



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section

September, 2022



Hurricane Season is Upon Us

As hurricane season is upon us, I figured it was a good time to switch on the *NOAA Hurricane Watch, Warning & Track Intensity* layer in the Situational Awareness Map. September and October are historically the peak of hurricane activity, so I'll leave it turned on through the active hurricane season.

Keep in mind that the *Current Weather Radar Imagery* layer is turned off by default (although you can easily turn it on yourself). It remains off by default for several reasons. First, it tends to obscure data below it, making it hard to see other information in the map. Second, leaving it on can put a heavy burden on browser performance. My option is to let the individual user turn this layer on when they feel they need it. There will be an exception to this, and it's hurricane related. As storms approach the mainland, and come under radar imagery coverage controlled by NOAA, being able to visualize the extent of the storm based on weather radar can be key. For that reason, I will selectively switch on weather radar coverage as storms approach the coast, and leave it on by default for as long as the information remains relevant.

Of course, the individual user has full control of what layers in the map are on or off when you open it up for your own use. Take the time starting today to play with the map and learn about its functions. There's a video presentation you can view that's available from the 'Info & Links' button at the top of the page. As I say in almost every presentation I give on the Situational Awareness Map, **the worst time to try to learn how to use the map is when the hurricane is about to make landfall in your county!**

Here's the link to the map: <https://arcg.is/0zjOCu0> It's also linked from the Georgia

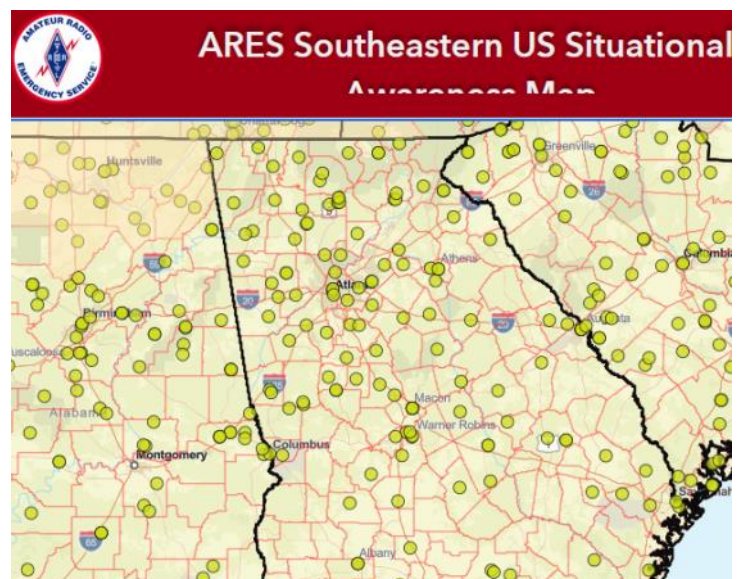
ARES website. Bookmark, bookmark, bookmark!

I consider both Craig's video and [AC2FV's post Super Storm Sandy video](#) to be required viewing for all ARES members, and others interested in emergency communications. Although both videos have been around for a while, the topics they discuss, and the lessons learned, are both priceless, and timeless.

There's a lot of crap on this topic out there on the on YouTube and other places on the internet. I've (unfortunately) watched most of it. Ignore it all except for these two videos, and take the lessons to heart.

If you have any questions or need support, my contact information is available under the 'Info & Links' section. I'm available for presentations, training and real-time, real-world support.

*Brian Haren, W8BYH
Fayette County ARES*



Amateur Radio and Astronomy

In early August, I was out of town on business and visited a local radio club meeting while there. Little did I know the story that would result. First, they were welcoming and amazed that someone from Georgia would visit their little club. They actually put me (and my husband) into their minutes for the meeting, which were then posted on their website. These minutes were then accessed by NASA!!!! A few days later, I received a contact from Ha-Hoa Hamano, a Presidential Innovation Fellow detailed to NASA, working on a project titled "The Heliophysics Big Year" asking if she could setup a zoom meeting with me. With me?!?! Why?

I readily agreed and suddenly the meeting also included Dr. Chuck Higgins, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy from Middle Tennessee State University and Dr. Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, Dept. of Physics & Engineering from University of Scranton.

Well, it turns out that ham radios can be used to measure the effects of space weather on communications infrastructure, and this is especially true during a Total Solar Eclipse. The next major eclipse will cross over exactly where I was, in Paducah, KY, on **April 8, 2024** and these scientists will be studying the impact to the ionosphere along the eclipse's path. During the last Total Solar Eclipse, in 2017, a QSO party was held and with the help of Amateur Radio enthusiasts the following results were tabulated <https://hamsci.org/seqp>.

Dr. Frissell, also a ham, has obtained a grant to once again study the effects of the next Solar Eclipse via Amateur Radio. Please read the linked article in its entirety, <https://news.scranton.edu/articles/2022/08/news-faculty-nsf-eclipse-frissell-2022.shtml> but here are some pertinent quotes.

"This project takes advantage of the unprecedented opportunity to study the ionospheric impacts of the 2023 and 2024 solar eclipses and the daily ionospheric variability associated with dawn/dusk transitions.

A better understanding of the impact of ionospheric disturbances is imperative, because these changes can affect crucial navigation and communications systems.

According to Dr. Frissell, this new NSF grant will fund an additional 30 Grape receivers that will be deployed throughout North America. Volunteers from the HamSCI amateur radio community will be able to fund and field additional stations. All stations will run continuously from deployment through at least the end of the project in 2025, and will capture the 2023

and 2024 eclipses.

This project will also establish a new network of measurement instruments that, due to its low-cost and operation by volunteers, has the potential to provide measurements for years to come," said Dr. Frissell, who also noted that results of the project "will be shared widely with the amateur radio community through presentations at amateur radio conventions, local clubs, and publication in amateur radio magazines and journals.

He [Dr. Frissell] is the founder and lead organizer of the international citizen science space physics research collective known as the [Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation \(HamSCI.org\)](https://hamsci.org). HamSCI is recognized as an official [NASA Citizen Science Project](https://nasa.gov/citizen-science)."

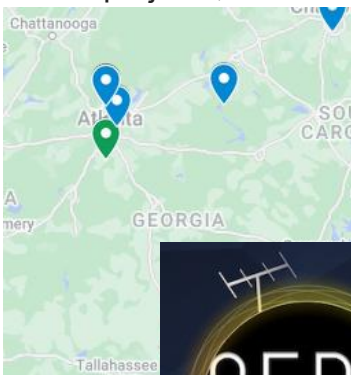
Further information regarding Dr. Frissell can be found in his bio at <https://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/physics-engineering/faculty/frissell.shtml>.

Dr. Chuck Higgins has his own research called "Radio JOVE" that analyzes radio signals from Jupiter <https://radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov/> Their newest project Radio JOVE 2.0, allows participants to assemble a [16-24 MHz radio spectrograph](https://radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov/16-24-MHz-radio-spectrograph) to observe solar, Jupiter, Galactic, and Earth-based natural radio emissions and share their observations with fellow participants. You, too, can become a radio astronomer!

To volunteer, or learn information about joining these research projects, please go to: <https://hamsci.org/get-involved> and <https://radiojove.gsfc.nasa.gov/gettingstarted/>

There are very few hams currently involved in these projects, as seen on this map, so please consider putting Georgia on their map!

-Karen Spradlin, K4LJS



Radio Club News

South Georgia Club vs. Clubs POTA Event

Ham radio is alive in South Georgia! We have local hams doing Parks on the Air activations in parks here in South Georgia, and we thought it would be fun to go head to head, club versus club, in a one day POTA event. On October 22, 2022 from 10:00am to 8:00pm (local time), several clubs are activating a park of their choice to see who can make the most contacts.

This event was created to get clubs in our area working together. The scoring is a simple average of QSOs per hour, but there are bonus points if someone makes a successful QSO with another participating club. Participants don't even have to operate the whole time. Since the score is based on an average over the time operated, you can play as long or as little as you want and still have a chance to win. We have a second pot full of bragging rights for the club that makes the most park to park contacts with any other POTA activator in the world.

Parks on the Air has been around for a few years now, but the popularity is growing. There are many stories of dormant Amateur Radio operators rekindling the flame of radio because of the opportunities provided through POTA. While some of the hams participating are no strangers to POTA, we hoped that this event might attract other members to come out and see what the fuss is all about.

At the time of publication these clubs have chosen to participate from the South Georgia area:

Colquitt County Ham Radio Society (AA4P),
Coastal Plains Amateur Radio Club (W4PVW),
Thomasville Amateur Radio Club (W4UCJ),
South Georgia Amateur Radio Club (W4TFM),
and the Albany Amateur Radio Club (W4MM).

A fun fact is that W4TFM and its members already had plans to operate from Reed Bingham State Park that same weekend. We just asked them to join us in a friendly competition.

If you're into chasing POTA, be on the lookout for our spots. Be sure to work us all. It's going to be a fun event.

Colquitt County Ham Radio Society
Rob Pitts
rob.w1rcp@gmail.com

Valdosta Amateur Radio Club

Congrats to all who participated in yesterday's Ham Cram. We had TEN people pass their FCC License tests!

John (Extra)	Brylie (Tech)
Thomas (Tech)	Sarah (Tech)
Candace (Tech)	Angel (Tech)
Yasmin (Tech)	Jack (Tech)
Derek (Tech)	Amber (Tech)

The Valdosta Amateur Radio Club is **PROUD of you!**

Thanks to the VARC examiners: Randy, Jamie, Bill, and

Dale. and new techs, don't forget to apply for your free VHF/UHF HT!

<https://forums.qrz.com/index.php?threads/announcing-the-qrz-new-ham-jumpstart-program.823607/>



Valdosta State University has an event early in the fall semester called "the Happening". It brings together student clubs, departments, and even city vendors to showcase what each has to offer students. This year the student amateur radio club (lovingly referred to as the "Blazed Hams", after the VSU teams "the Blazers", or more formally, the Valdosta State University Amateur Radio Club) had a table to attract new members. The city of Valdosta club (VARC) also showed up to lend support (the two clubs are very tight.) As a result, the Blazed hams now have about 30 members, and 10 of them got their new tech licenses at a ham cram that VARC held last Saturday!



Thanks to everyone who helped out with the happening! The undergrads had a GREAT time reaching out through the air. Thanks especially to Doc and Bill for coming out on a hot day!

Radio Club News

Fayette County Amateur Radio Club

Thanks to everyone who provided radio support at the 2022 Tri-PTC Sprint Triathlon, on the morning of 8/13/22.



Pictured above - front - Race Director Kim Bramblett, Mary Catherine Domaleski, KI4HHI, Joe Domaleski, KI4ASK back - John Snellen, AI4RT; Walter Jones, Jr, KN4NQ, Lynn Bianco, KN4YZ; Peachtree City Fire/EMS Battalion Chief David Winkles; Meg Blubaugh, K5MEG; David Blubaugh, ND1J; Ken Moore, AI4UW



Huntsville Hamfest



Mary Catherine Domaleski, KI4HHI did a Foxhunting presentation with husband Joe, KI4ASK

Steve Goodgam, K5ATA, ARRL Education & Learning Manager with Joe KI4ASK and Mary Catherine Domaleski, KI4HHI



Audrey McElroy KM4BUN was presented as Amateur Newline Young Ham of the Year with brother Jack McElroy KM4ZIA.

Here is a DX Engineering interview with Audrey
<https://fb.watch/foe4Halm38/>



Radio Club News

Jasper Radio Club

Playing radio on the mountain!! Early on August 13, a 13 hams headed up onto Mount Oglethorpe, in the early morning mist, to see who we could hear. Running off of homebrew battery packs and using three different radio set-



ups, we introduced some new, and newly upgraded, hams to the joys of HF!



Ricky, NG4DX, setting up the end-fed dipole.



Did we bring enough donuts? Frank, K4SJR, is taste-testing.

A pavilion in the clouds



Robert Davis, KJ4AFG, Nate Wilson, Ricky Bramlett, NG4DX and Charles Spradlin, N4NGA

Off-Grid Radio

What can be better than mountains, friends and radios? Off-grid radio takes radio to the mountains, to make contacts far and wide.



Participants included Lee Stone, KF4TL, Don Coltrane, KJ4UC, Larry Whited, AB4NX, Ricky Bramlett, NG4DX, Frank Dean, K4SJR.



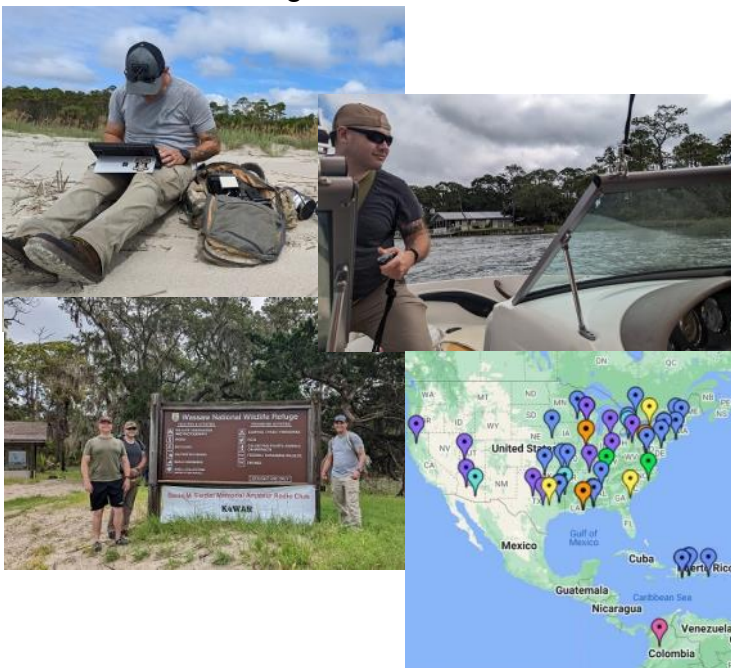
Radio Club News

David M. Fiedler Memorial Amateur Radio Club

K4WAR, located on Fort Gordon, GA (Augusta) engaged in two exciting events in August.

1) K4WAR members were the first to activate Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge POTA site 13AUG22.

On Saturday, 13 August 2022, K4WAR members Matt Sherburne, KF4WZB, Nick Hennessey, KD2UCW, and Mitch McCarthy, KY4LY travelled from Fort Gordon, GA to Fort McAllister, GA to boat over to the Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge in order to be the first ever to activate it as a POTA site. Nick and Mitch set up their own G90 HF radios and installed vertical whips and end-feds right on the beach making over 40 contacts in total.



2) K4WAR also ensured Amateur Radio had a presence at the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) TechNet Augusta Conference from 15-18 August 2022. Conference participants got to learn the benefits Amateur Radio offers and see a fully restored Collins KWM-2A radio. *Matt -KF4WZB*

Matt Sherburne, KF4WZB, Erik Averill, Nick Hennessey, KD2UCW, and Mitch McCarthy, KY4LY, manned the booth during the event.



Chattooga Amateur Radio Club

Canyon Fest is an annual celebration of art and nature featuring local art, crafts, live animal shows, music, food and fun for the entire family. Free and open to everyone. Sat, Nov 5, 10 AM – 3 PM

This event is where we are proposing a joint venture with the Ft. Payne Club with a POTA operation. Seems like it would be an excellent place to gather new individuals interested in Ham Radio.

Lanierland ARC and Hall County ARES

These two groups are hosting a North Georgia Parks On The Air MeetUp October 15, starting at 9 a.m. For more details, see:

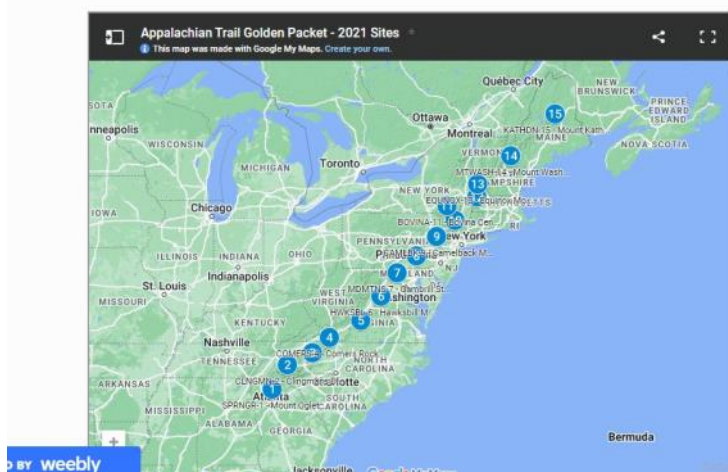
https://www.facebook.com/events/3286201884955841/?acontext=%7B%22source%22%3A%229%22%2C%22ref_notif_type%22%3A%22event_calendar_create%22%2C%22action_history%22%3A%22null%22%7D¬if_id=1661387965340380¬if_t=event_calendar_create&ref=notif

Walton County Repeater Group

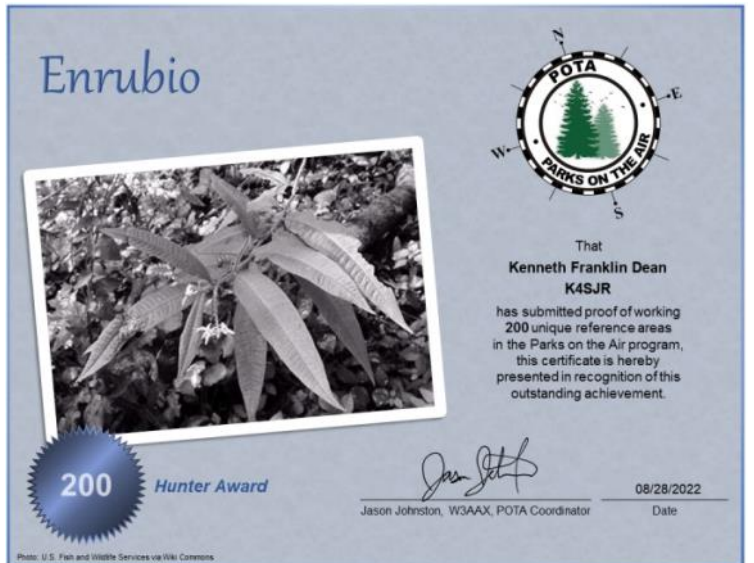
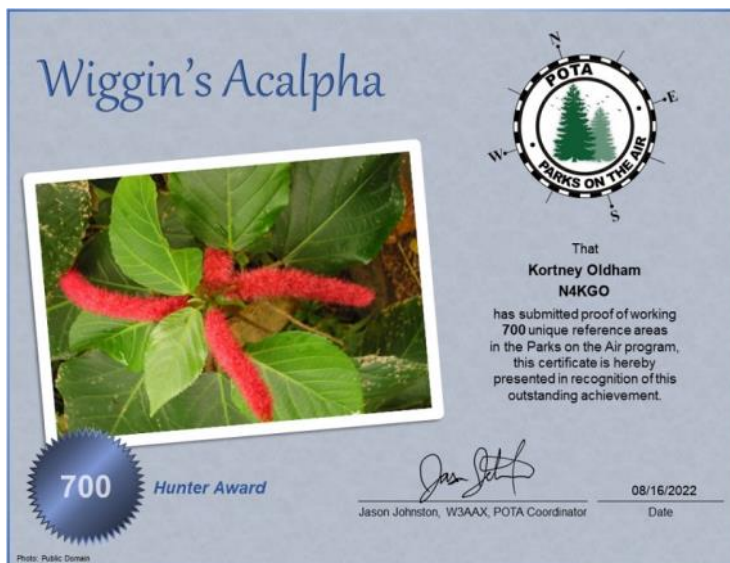
Hello all you APRSERS I have a digipeater up and running on 144.390 - it is functioning well and can definitely reach out and deliver the packets. Tune in and fire up your aprs gear and use SMSGATE and WINLINK . Looking forward to seeing the APRS traffic pick up in the area and WINLINK traffic as well.

Leonard McElhannon

ROAN-3: Roan Mountain, Carter County, TN
COMERS-4: Comers Rock, Elk Creek, VA
AOMTN-5: Apple Orchard Mountain, Bedford and Botetourt Counties, VA
HWKSL-6: Hawksbill Mountain, Madison and Page Counties, VA
MDMTNS-7: Gambrill State Park, Frederick, MD
SAMSPT-10: Sam's Point, Cragmoor, NY
BOVINA-11: Bovina Center, Bovina Center, NY
CRYLCK-12: Mount Greylock, Berkshire County, MA
EQINOX-13: Equinox Mountain, Manchester, VT
MTWASH-14: Mount Washington, Cods County, NH
KATHDN-15: Mount Katahdin, Piscataquis County, ME



Awards



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

Upcoming Hamfests

9/24/22 - Warner Robins Swapfest @ 8am.

Location: NW corner of the large parking lot, NW of the main building known as the Pavilion.

Directions: From I-75 Exit 146, east on Watson Blvd, north at Corder Road into parking lot and continue north through the parking lot to event.

<http://wr4mq.us/SwapFestMap.png>

Sponsored Jointly by: Middle Georgia Radio Association, Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club, and Tri-County ARES.

Frequencies: 146.850 WA4ORT repeater, 443.150 WM4B repeater, 146.43 simplex

AREDN MESH demonstrations and more.

Bring your items and funds. There will be many Silent Key items, available for donations.

11/5-6/22 - Stone Mountain / ARRL Georgia Section Convention <http://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

11/12/22 - HamJam - Alpharetta www.Nfarl.org

2023

1/14/23 - TechFest - Lawrenceville
www.Techfest.info

2/25/23 - Dalton Hamfest - Dalton
www.facebook.com/DaltonAmateurRadioClub/

6/3/23 - Atlanta Hamfest / ARRL Georgia Section Convention www.atlantahamfest.org

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind:**

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DOPUoxeBBLii8coZB6fDrLYbaI9_9pN?usp=sharing

Upcoming Contests

BCC QSO Party (Bavarian)	9/15
NTC QSO Party (Netherlands)	9/15
ARRL EME Contest	9/17
Texas QSO Party	9/17
Iowa QSO Party	9/17
New Hampshire QSO Party	9/17
New Jersey QSO Party	9/17
Wisconsin Parks on the Air	9/17
Washington State Salmon Run	9/17
Maine QSO Party	9/24
Worldwide Sideband Activity	9/27
Collegiate QSO Party	10/1
California QSO Party	10/1
Nevada QSO Party	10/8
Arizona QSO Party	10/8
Pennsylvania QSO Party	10/8
South Dakota QSO Party	10/8
New York QSO Party	10/15
Illinois QSO Party	10/16

For more info, see these links:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html?fbclid=IwAR0PEY5A8a7uuy4oO42E3puJRpYqE3Cb7BRecjTwjISFvvhE2JV5597UQKc>

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/stateparties.html?fbclid=IwAR1iSXcS3vu0q7QdUp9vbjingJb2CwgdPrwsCaUF1jqV98Fhr1kLZQod7Bc>

A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for August 2022

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 42

Number of ARES nets - 1124

Nets with NTS liaison - 5

Number of Exercises &

Training Sessions - 269 (2575 hrs.)

Number of Public Service events - 17 (208 hrs.)

Number of Emergency Operations - 0 (0 hrs.)

Number of SkyWarn Operations - 7 (38 hrs.)

Total of 293 Exercises & Events

Total of 2822 person hours

Georgia Statewide Resources

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
kn4qj@arri.net

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ
Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO
k4go@arri.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ
Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO

PSK & Traffic Nets Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL
Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

D-RATS Net Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ
Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

Georgia Section Technical Specialists

These are Georgia Radio Amateurs who have volunteered to help support Amateur Activity. If you have experience and "know-how" in any aspect of the Amateur Radio Service and want to help others, contact Section Manager David Benoist, AG4ZR at ag4zr@arri.net

Ron West WB3ILX – Specialist in digital communication and radio systems. Experience with most of the common digital systems including Winlink, FLDigi, Dstar, DMR to name a few. wb3ilx@gmail.com North Metro Atlanta

E.B. "Sparks" Simmons KK4IB – Specialist in AREDN radio and networking systems. Experience with AREDN network construction, linking, and application interface. kk4ib@arri.net Warner Robins

David Bury KC4JIR – Specialist in AREDN radio and networking systems. Experience with AREDN network construction, linking, and application interface. kc4jir@arri.net Warner Robbins

David Slotter W3DJS – Specialist in all things digital and network related. David offers support in a broad range of Amateur digital and software support and is the author and developer of the HamPi application. hamradioquestions@slotter.net North Metro Atlanta

National Traffic System

Georgia Cracker Net: Daily - 7:00 am Mon-Sat, 8:00 am Sun. on 3995 KHz. *Note that there is a pre-net Monday - Saturday after 5:00 am so the net control operator can populate a roster for that mornings' net.*

Net Manager John Collette AF4XZ
Net control operators: Bob Wilbanks W4ZVX, Pete Payne KG4YOL, Paul Prosser WA4RWS, Mark Aulick KF4MLT, Lyndy Brannen ND4XE

Georgia Single Sideband Association Net:

Nightly at 2300 UTC on 3975 KHz. gssaradio.net

Net Manager, Frank Hobbs KN4QJ
Net control operators: Garrett Gonella KU4SD, Terry Cantrell W4WTC, George Young KE4VPD, Jim Altman W4UCK, Ken Elsberry WD4ERM, Dana Persells WJ4Z, Rick Howard W4RIK

Georgia Traffic and Emergency Net (GTEN):

Nightly at 2315 UTC on 3982.5 KHz.

Net Manager, Louis Hernandez K4IIE
Net control operators: Terry Cantrell W4WTC, George Young KE4VPD, Frank Hobbs KN4QJ, Gene Clark W4AYK, Alan Kwasneske N9MGK

September 2022 Net Report

*Definitions: QNI - Check-ins
QTC - messages processed or passed*

GA ARES Phone Net

QNI Relayed check-ins from local nets
Total in Sessions

GA ARES Digital Nets

Winlink
Traffic Net
PSK Net
Digital Total in Sessions (each)

GA SSB Net

QNI , QTC in Sessions

GA Cracker Net

QNI , QTC in Sessions

GA Traffic and Emergency Net (GTEN)

QNI , QTC in Sessions

GSN (GA State CW Net)

QNI , QTC , Sessions

GTN (GA Training Net - CW)

QNI , QTC , Sessions

Total: QNI , QTC , nets conducted